



## Accommodating Creative Knowledge: Competitiveness of European Metropolitan Regions within the Enlarged Union



Website: [www2.fmg.uva.nl/ACRE](http://www2.fmg.uva.nl/ACRE)

The project is funded under the priority 7 'Citizens and Governance in a knowledge-based society' within the Sixth Framework Programme of the EU

**Start date:** October 1, 2006

**Duration:** 48 months

**Coordinator:** University of Amsterdam  
Amsterdam institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies (AMIDSt)

## Project

ACRE, a new EU funded international project, has been launched by the Amsterdam institute for Metropolitan and International Development studies (AMIDSt) in October 2006 as a result of almost two years of preparatory work. A consortium, which includes 13 partners from Western and Eastern Europe and which is coordinated by Professor Sako Musterd, will evaluate the prospects for their selected city regions developing as 'creative knowledge regions' and improving their economic profiles'.

## Central research question

*What are the conditions for creating or stimulating 'creative knowledge regions' in the context of the extended European Union? More particularly, what is the role of so-called 'soft' factors in creating and stimulating 'creative knowledge regions'?*

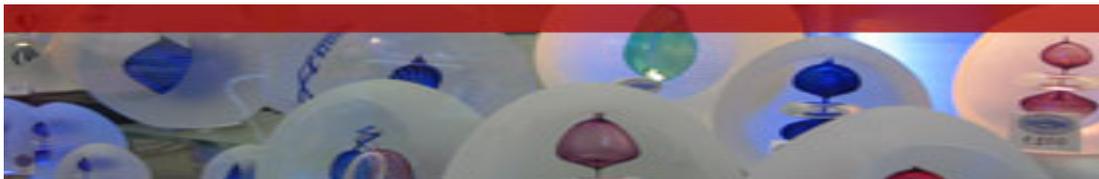
## Case studies

The list of case studies does not include obvious success stories like London or Paris. The aim is to find out if and how ordinary European cities, in the East and in the West, in the North and in the South can be competitive in the field of creative knowledge and to discover the factors that promote and/or prevent success in this respect. In particular the focus is on the factors determining success, the difficulties that city regions experience in becoming successful as well as the ways to overcome these difficulties.

Among the 13 case studies are:

1. several national capitals (Amsterdam, Dublin, Helsinki, Riga, Sofia, Budapest)
2. cities with 'partial' capital city functions (like Milan and Munich),
3. several cities with a rich industrial history (Birmingham, Toulouse, Leipzig, Poznan).

The most important topic to consider is which metropolitan regions have the best chances to develop as 'creative knowledge regions'.



## Consortium



Our consortium includes a total of 13 partners, almost equally from the old EU-15 and the new member states and candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

## Partners

1. Amsterdam institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies, Universiteit van Amsterdam, the Netherlands
2. Centre de Recerca en Economia del Benestar – Centre for Research in Welfare Economics, University of Barcelona, Spain
3. Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, University of Birmingham, UK
4. Institute of Geography, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary
5. Department of Geography, University of Helsinki, Finland
6. Leibniz Institute of Regional Geography, Germany
7. Department of Geography, Ludwig-Maximilian University, Germany
8. Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland
9. Stockholm School of Economics, Latvia
10. Centre for Social Practices, New Bulgarian University, Bulgaria
11. Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban and Sociological Studies, University of Toulouse-II Le Mirail, France
12. Department of Sociology and Social research, University degli Studi di Milan Bicocca, Italy
13. School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin, Ireland

## Local Partnerships



This theory and policy-oriented study is supported by 'local partnerships', which include both policy-makers and members of the related business community and constitute a European Council of Policy-makers and Creative and Knowledge Experts.

## Work Plan

### First stage:

- literature review;
- local reports about the current paths of creative knowledge regions for each case study;
- a comparative study, resulting in classification to reveal general types of paths and provide a basis for a differentiated approach to certain groups of city regions in the subsequent empirical research.

### Second stage (empirical research):

- the analysis of target group importance for each city region;
- three separate studies on certain target groups, based on questionnaires, surveys and interviews (graduates and workers, managers, transnational migrants);
- discussion of results among the partners and between the partners and their local partnerships (LOP).

### Third stage (synthesis):

- synthesis of results for each case-study;
- comparative study across cases.

### Fourth stage:

- existing policies and strategies;
- policy recommendations, considering different paths and based on good practices;
- dissemination of results.

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